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NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Cathy Coffman

636-789-3551 ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$831,000 TO VILLAGE OF CEDAR HILL LAKES

Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$830,000 to Chairperson Julia Terry, during a ceremony held at the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes City Hall. The mock check represents approval of \$350,000 Water and Waste Disposal Loan funds and \$480,000 Grant funds to be used for construction and installation of a central sewer system to service 118 users in rural Jefferson County.

"Every community in Missouri should have access to a high quality water system," said Senator Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture committee. "The funds will be used to construct a water infrastructure system to serve the residents in Cedar Hill. This is an example of how the federal government is partnering with the community to meet local needs."

"In Southern Missouri, we face unique challenges on infrastructure issues like water and sewer systems and public services such as emergency response. Because we are a rural region, we place special focus on quality of life and business development issues. Funding rural projects gives us an important opportunity to exhibit our public pride in the towns and counties we call home. USDA Rural Development works very hard to identify opportunities to invest in rural Missouri, and I appreciate their cooperation and determination on this latest round of funding," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson



First row: Donna Martin, Julia Terry, Chairperson, Patty Stewart, Village Clerk, Cathy Coffman, Kacky Garner, Talent's Office and Greg Branum
Back row: Harold Shelby, ex Representative, Dennis Sides, MAP, Tom Mattingly, Paul Dean, Bob Cristi, Laura Drummond, Trustee Stanley Schnaare, Attorney, Bob Busch, Trustee, Golden Grierson, and Terry Luetkemeyer

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system," said Branum. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal system."

"On behalf of the citizens of the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the organizations and individuals that have made a Sewer District in the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes a reality. It is with great appreciation that we wish to thank Greg Branum, Terry Luetkemeyer, Donna Martin and Cathy Coffman of USDA/Rural Development; Barbara Bohley of BLB Associates; Jerry Gilmore of Howard R. Green Engineering and Dennis Siders of MAP for their assistance in getting the funding for this sewer project; and to Stanley Schnaare of the Schnaare Law Firm for his legal assistance," said Julie Terry, Chairman of the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes.

“A special thank you to Richard Weible, Kim Weible and the past and present Board of Trustees for their persistence and tireless efforts in getting and keeping the ball rolling. Thank you to former State Representative, Harold Selby, for his assistance on the State level; and last, but not least, a very special thank to our Village Clerk, Margaret (“Peggy”) Stewart, who has served virtually in every capacity and aspect of the Village community and whose determination and unwavering efforts for a better future for the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes has made the vision become a reality. Again, thank you to everyone involved in this new and better way of life for the Village of Cedar Hill Lakes,” said Terry.

USDA Rural Development’s water and waste disposal program has loaned more than \$15 billion during the past 58 years, with a loss rate of just one-tenth of one percent. This makes it one of the most successful federal lending programs in any area of government.

Branum added, “Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

Anyone seeking additional information on any USDA Rural Development program may visit the website at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, 10820 Hwy 21 Suite 112, Hillsboro, MO, 63050 or calling 636-789-2175.

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